

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH**P.O. BOX 1110****KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752****(907) 442-2500 / FAX (907) 442-2930****DECLARATION OF DISASTER
NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH, ALASKA**

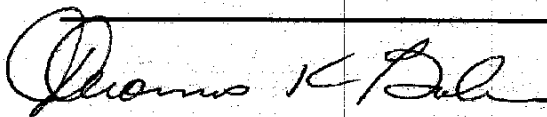
As Acting Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough, I hereby declare that a disaster condition exists in the Borough communities of Kotzebue and Kivalina based on the following facts:

- 1) During the evening hours of October 18, 2004, a strong low pressure storm system centered over the Bering Sea produced strong winds which resulted in coastal flooding in Northwest Alaska.
- 2) As a result of high water conditions and strong winds, extensive erosion and storm generated damage occurred in the community of Kivalina, and minor damage and erosion occurred in the community of Kotzebue. The storm surge peaked at 1:00 PM on October 19th due to high tide and Bering Sea storm surge.
- 3) Affected entities have responded to the best of their abilities but neither the City of Kivalina, nor the City of Kotzebue are able to fully cope with the damage resulting from this fall storm.
- 4) The City of Kotzebue has estimated the cost of its present and future response to this storm as \$127,000. The cost of this incident has exceeded the City's ability to respond. Attached photos show erosion of recently placed embankment reconstruction resulting from the Fall 2002 storm.
- 5) The Northwest Arctic Borough has estimated that the assistance needed by the City of Kivalina to repair the beach drain field is \$30,000, and the cost to restore eroded beach shoulder in several critical areas is \$450,000 (7,000 cubic yards of fill). The damage is mainly confined to the southeast end of the island, on both the ocean side and the lagoon side. The cost of this incident has exceeded the City of Kivalina's ability to respond. Attached photos document the damage in Kivalina.
- 6) The City of Kotzebue, the City of Kivalina, have both requested assistance from the Northwest Arctic Borough.
- 7) The Northwest Arctic Borough has available \$15,000 in disaster relief funding from its Disaster Response line item in the Mayor's budget.

The Borough is dispersing this amount to the entities that have requested assistance, with \$5,000 going to the Northwest Arctic Borough School District for assistance in relocating the Kivalina School Principal's quarters and \$10,000 going to the City of Kivalina to address debris management and repair of the sewage drain field. Having now depleted the Mayor's Emergency Response Fund, the Northwest Arctic Borough lacks the ability to financially respond to the requests related to storm damage in Kivalina, and Kotzebue.

I therefore request that any and all assistance from the Governor, agencies, and departments of the State of Alaska be brought to bear to restore public roadways in Kotzebue for safe use by residents and to protect private and public property and structures in Kivalina from further damages that will certainly occur with the next storm event. The needed assistance to address these issues is \$577,000.

This Disaster Proclamation is hereby authorized on this 24th day of October, 2004.



Thomas K. Bolen,
Public Services Director and Acting Mayor
For Roswell L. Schaeffer, Sr.
Mayor, Northwest Arctic Borough